(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pact with Russia for combating terrorism

644. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Russia have signed a pact on combating terrorism and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs etc.; and

(b) if so, the details of this pact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Agreement are to develop interaction in the field of combating crime against life, freedom, dignity of the person and property and to combat organised and international crime, terrorist activities; to combat illicit operations with weapons, ammunition, explosives, toxic substances and radioactive materials; to combat illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; to combat manufacture and sale of forged documents, money and securities; to combat crimes connected with economic activities; to combat illicit operations with precious stones and metals; prevention of illegal migration as well as illicit stay of persons and to combat illicit trade etc.

Opening of offices in South Africa

645. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open foreign offices in South Africa;

(b) if so, whether the terms and conditions have been worked out with the visiting South African team; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) During the visit to India by South African Foreign Minister, Mr. R. F. Botha, from November 21-22, 1993. India and South Africa signed two protocols, one on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the other on the establishment of consular relations. As a result thereof, it has been decided to upgrade the existing Indian Cultural Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, into a Consulate General. Plans for offices in Durban and Pretoria are also under consideration. The South African Representative Office in New Delhi is also being upgraded.

Recognition of Sikkim as part of India by China

646. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of recognition of Sikkim as part of India by China, was taken up during Prime Minister's recent visit to China in connection with Sino-India border issue; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) The Government of India's position that Sikkim is an integral part of India has been conveyed to the Chinese authorities on several occasions including PM's visit to China. The Chinese authorities are therefore aware of India's position and have noted it.

Nuclear explosion test by China

647. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the nuclear explosion test conducted by China recently; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Government are aware that China conducted an underground nuclear test on October 5, 1993.

(b) Government keep under constant review all developments having a bearing on India's security and take appropriate measures to safeguard national security. India has consistently advocated a comprehensive ban on the testing of nuclear weapons. It remains our earnest hope that all states, nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states alike will together conclude such a ban at the earliest.

पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ वार्ता

648. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या हमारे प्रधान मंत्री की और पाकिस्तान की नव निर्वाचित प्रधान मंत्री श्रीमती बेनजीर भुट्टो के बीच निकट भविष्य में बातचीत कराये जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस मामले में किसने पहल की है और यदि अभी तक कोई पहल नहीं की गई है, तो क्या इस मामले में कोई पहल करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आरे. एल. भाटिय) : (क) और (ख) 19 अक्तूबर 1993 को पाकिस्तान की प्रधान मंत्री को अपने संदेश में हमारे प्रधान मंत्री ने भारत और पाकिस्तान के बीच आपसी हित चिन्ता के सभी मसलों पर, जिसमें जम्मू-कश्मीर से संबंधित मसले भी शामिल हैं, विस्तृत एवं सतत द्विपक्षीय विचार-विमर्श का प्रस्ताव किया था।

पाकिस्तान की प्रधान मंत्री ने यह उत्तर दिया था कि पाकिस्तान, भारत तथा पाकिस्तान के बीच शांतिपूर्ण बातचीत के जरिए कश्मीर तथा अन्य समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए सार्थक विचार विमर्श के लिए तैयार है।

भारत तथा पाकिस्तान की सरकार द्वारा 24 नवम्बर, 1993 को जारी एक संयुक्त वक्तव्य में इस बात की पुनः पुष्टि की गई थी कि शिमला समझौते के अनुरूप दोनों देशों के बीच विदेश सचिव स्तर का विचार-विमर्श इस्लामाबाद में 1 से 3 जनवरी, 1994 तक होगा।

Pakistan's plan to raise Kashmir issue at International Fora

649. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent east Pakistan consistently raised the bilateral Kashmir issue at various international fora including the Commonwealth Conference at Cyprus thereby visiting the Commonwealth spirit and established convention;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to counter the Pakistani moves on Kashmir and what action Government propose to take to counter such moves by Pakistani in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pakistan has raised the Kashmir issue of the Viena Human Rights Conference in June 1993, the Commonwealth Summit in Limassol in October 1993, the current Session of the UN General Assembly and at various meetings of the DIC.

(c) Appropriate steps have been taken by Government to counter the Pakistani moves through diplomatic channels. Government will adhere to their consistent stand that Pakistan should desist from attempts to internatonalise bilateral issues.